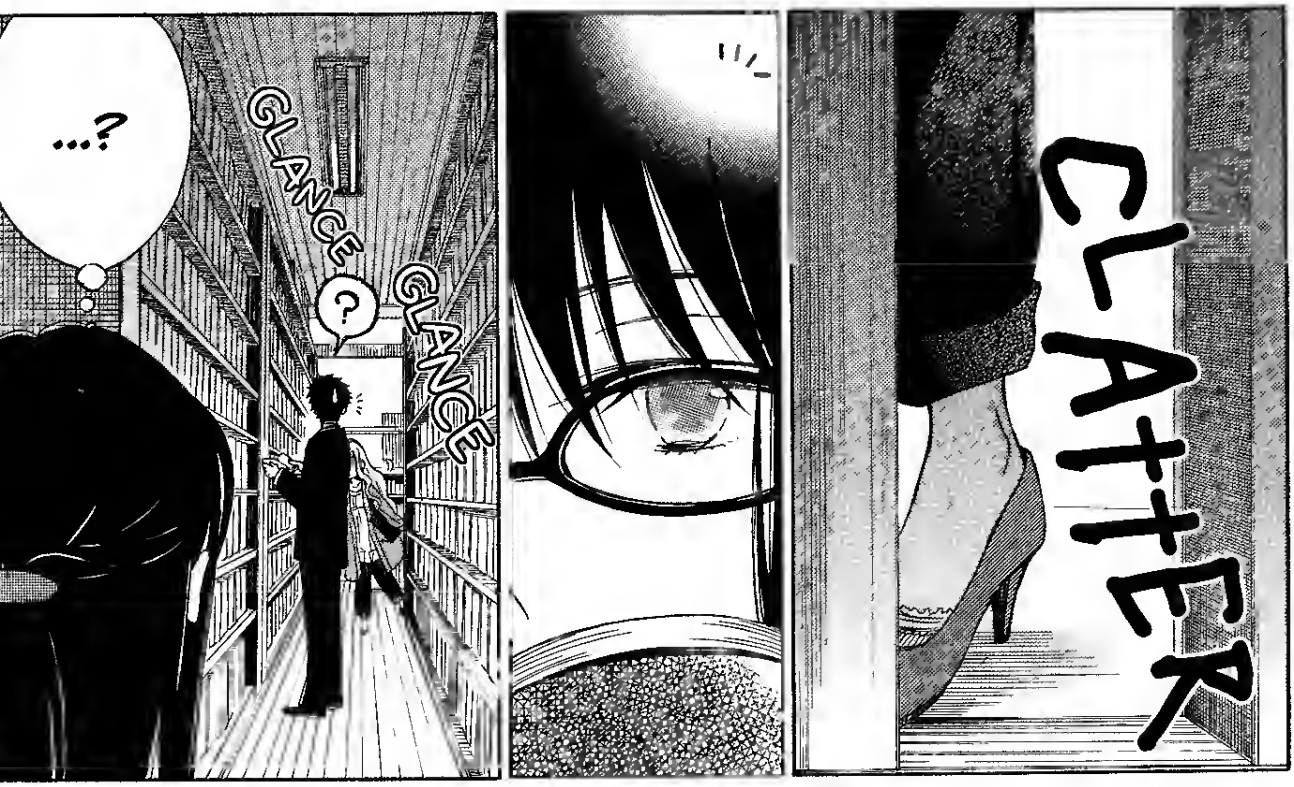
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

Chapter 36


CLATTER
...?
GLANCE
GLANCE
?

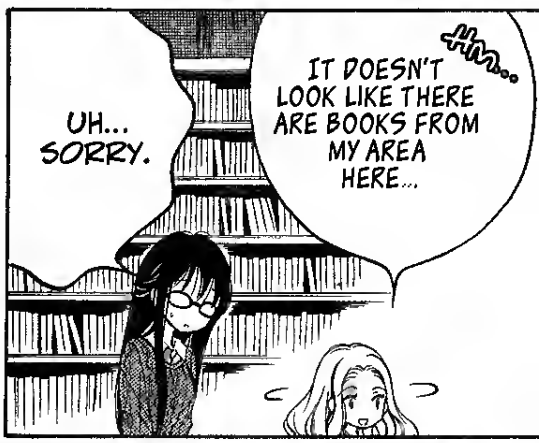
!
YOU'RE.. AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE AT SCHOOL?

FREEZE
...AH.
ELE...
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL?
SHOCK
I'M SORRY!
You were acting suspi- ciously, so...
UMM... NII-SAN'S EDITOR-SAN...
SOB
SOB
FWISH
I'M OOMIYA MIYAKO!
KUROIZATO-SENSEI WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE IN AT THE MOMENT, WOULD HE?
EH... NO, HE HASN'T BEEN IN TODAY...
SO SMALL...
Looking around

AH... IF HE DOES COME IN,
IT'S USUALLY BETWEEN 3 AND 4 O'CLOCK.
CLICK
CLICK
I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM FOR A FEW DAYS, YOU SEE...
Sigh
It seems he's been away.
Even when I called in at his house.
...EH.
SORRY.
UNDER-STOOD, I'LL TRY TO AMBUSH HIM THEN.
BUT HE MIGHT NOT BE COMING IN TODAY, SO IT WOULD BE BEST TO CALL.
Thanks very much.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING HIS SISTER HAS TO APOLO-GISE FOR.
HE'S STILL AHEAD OF THE DEADLINE, SO IT SHOULD BE OKAY...
EVERY NOW AND THEN HE GOES OUT OF CONTACT LIKE THIS...
AH!

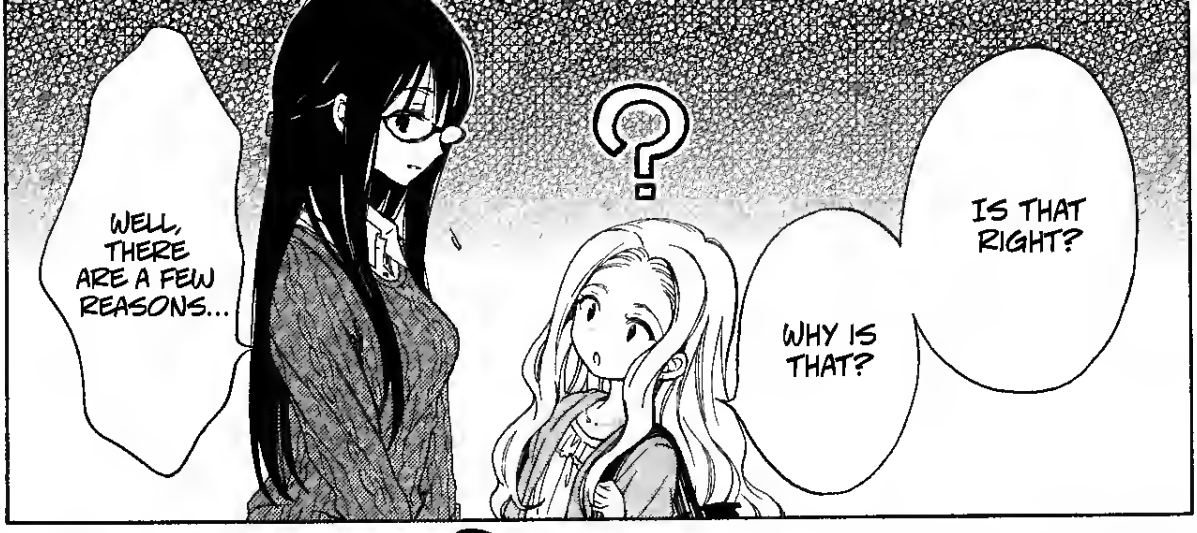
I ALWAYS END UP LOOKING OUT FOR BOOKS I'M IN CHARGE OF WHEN I GO TO BOOKSTORES.
I FOUND KUROIZATO-SENSEI'S BOOK!

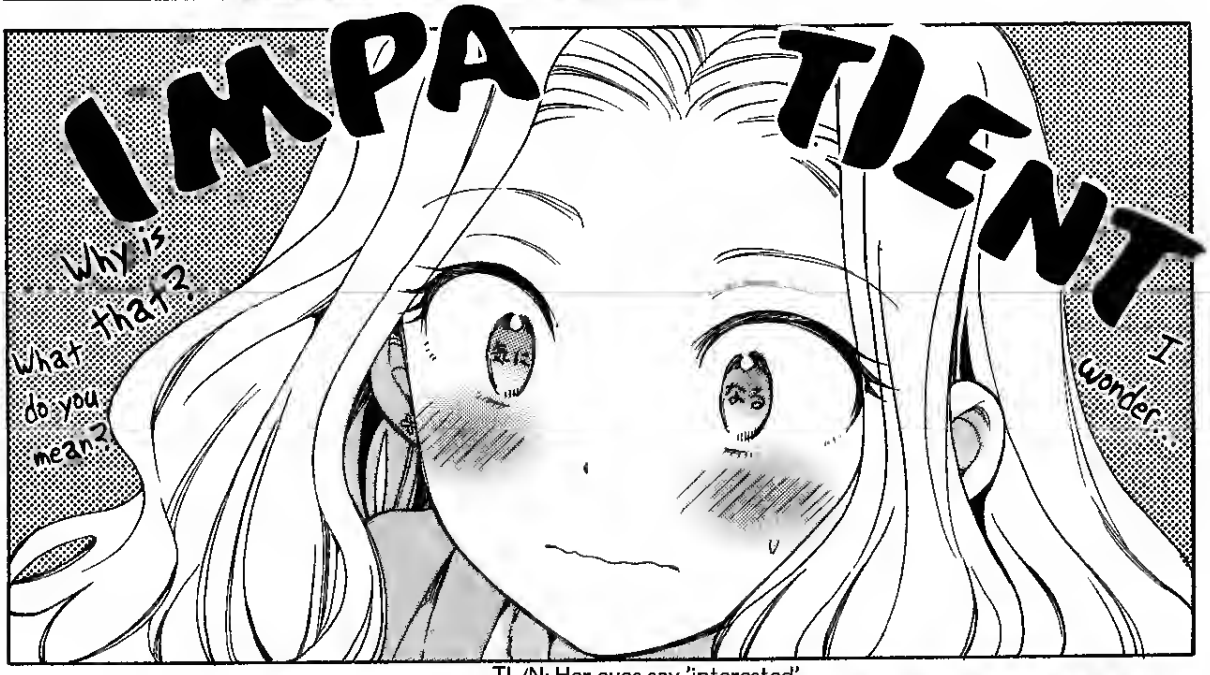
NO, NO.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF A HIGH SCHOOL, I GUESS THERE AREN'T MANY BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE HERE.


UH... SORRY.
HMM...
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE ARE BOOKS FROM MY AREA HERE...

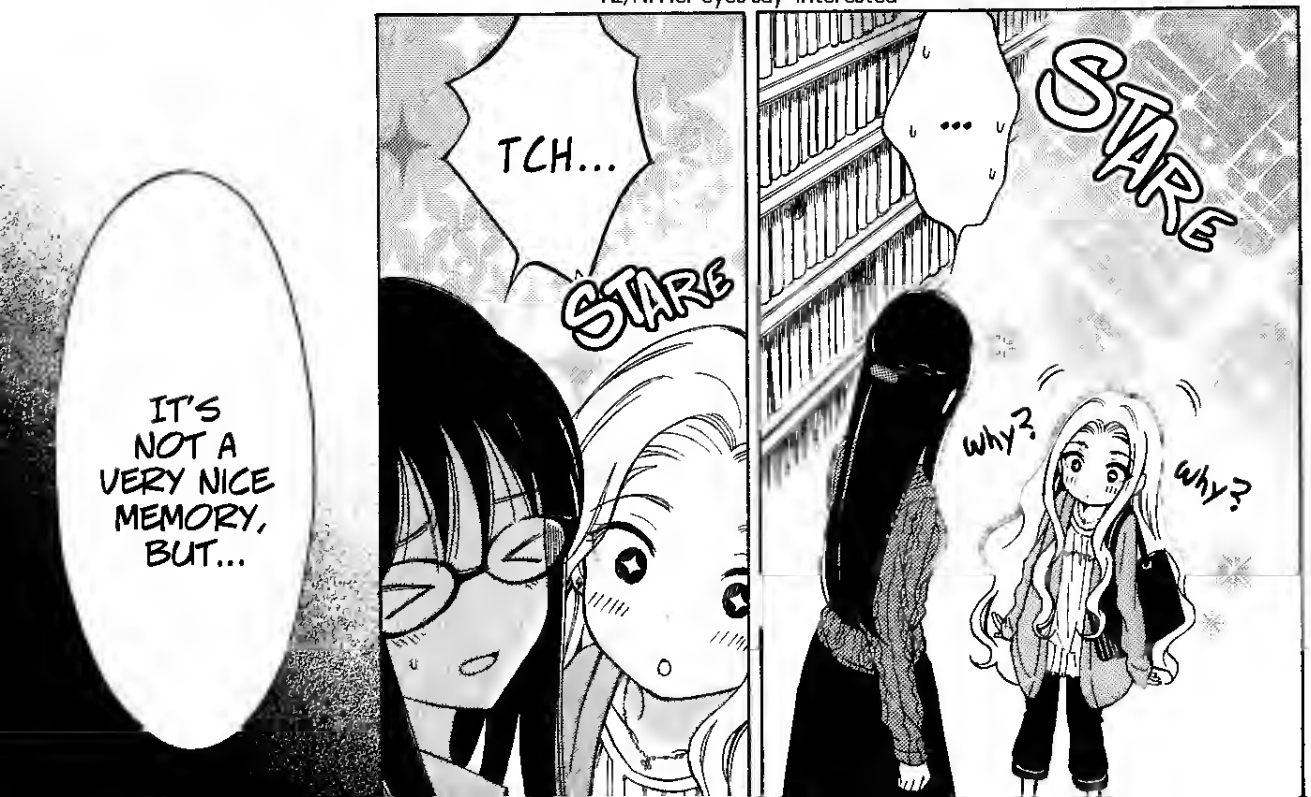
...
Oh,
NOW THAT I'VE SAID THAT, I SEE THAT THERE ARE SOME CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND THINGS
And some manga as well...

IT'S ONLY A RECENT THING,
THAT YOUNGER CHILDREN HAVE STARTED COMING.





TL/N: Her eyes say 'interested'

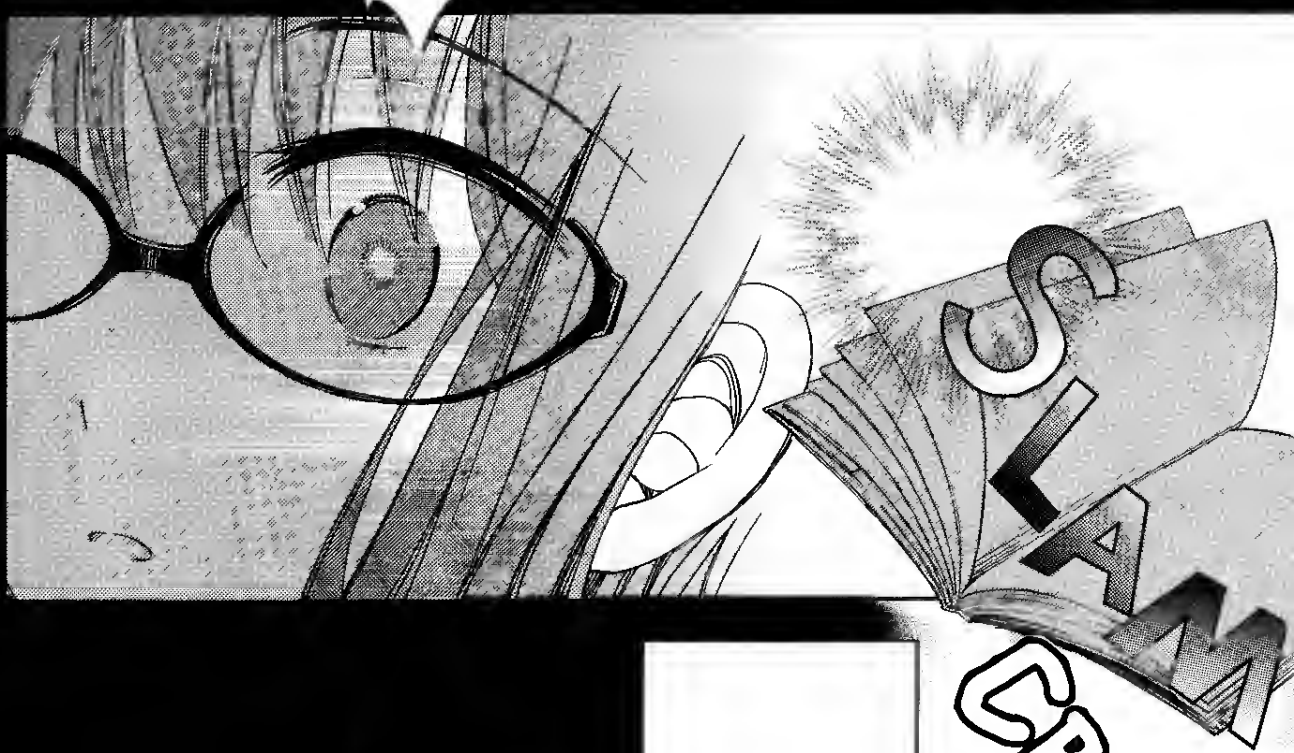


It was just after I became the shopkeeper here.
RATTLE
...HM?
DEEK
IT JUST LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL BOOK-STORE.
IT'S ALL COLD, DARK AND QUIET,
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO-ONE HERE!
MAYBE THE RUMORS ARE TRUE.
WHISPER...
WHISPER...
CHILDREN...
THAT'S RIGHT, THERE'S AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEARBY, ISN'T THERE?

But, there aren't any books here that young children could read...
What do I do?
STARE
HEY!
JOLT
ice cream
AH
!?
EH?
WAAAAH!
IT'S COMING OOOUT!
EATING INSIDE THE SHOP IS PROHIBITED... UH...
Um...
Did they get startled?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

GLARE
IF YOU'RE NOT A CUSTOMER, GET OUT.
UHH... I'M REALLY NOT THAT GOOD WITH KIDS, SO...
WHAT THE CHILDREN SEE
COME BACK AGAIN...
WAAH!
THUD
THUD
THUD
EH?
AH...
HUH?
Is it because of the way the store and I look, maybe?
It seems there were rumors going around the elementary school about ghosts and witches living here.

It appears as if I really scared them.
The elementary schoolers never came back to the store.
...
There were high schoolers, who were close to me in age, who came to the store just for fun, but...
Gyahaha
IT REALLY DOESN'T STRIKE ME AS IF YOU'VE COME HERE TO LOOK AT BOOKS...
CAN YOU PLEASE KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN?
ONEE-SAN, YOU'VE GOT A FUNNY WAY OF TALKING, DON'T YOU?
Ha Ha Ha



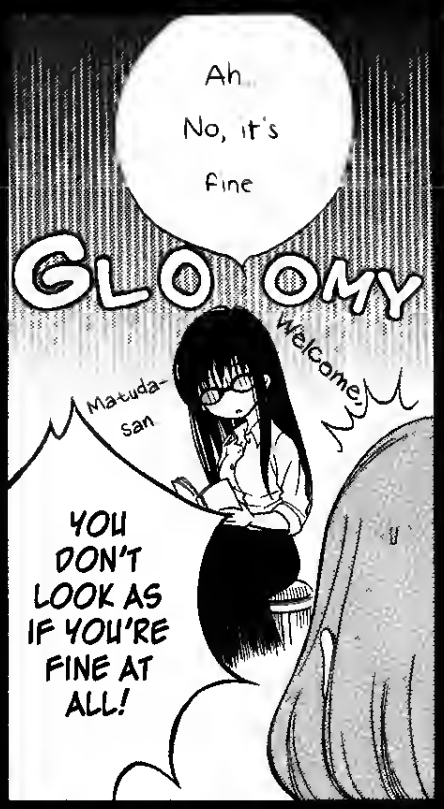
It wasn't intentional

But that time I really did get angry.

And then, high schoolers stopped coming to the shop.
Instead,
CLATTER
HEY HEY, DID YOU HEAR? AT THAT BOOK-STORE...
WHAT IS IT?
whisper
whisper
I HEARD SHE'S SUPER SCARY WHEN SHE GETS MAD.
Whisper
Whisper
Whisper
Whisper
I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY TALKED TO HER...
BUT SHE SEEMS KIND OF COLD, RIGHT?

SHE'LL GET MAD!
IT'S FINE!
SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SHE'S BEING BOTHERED BY US.
...
IN SOME WAYS...
IT FEELS KIND OF FUNNY-
TO BECOME THE SUBJECT OF RUMORS LIKE THAT, DOESN'T IT?

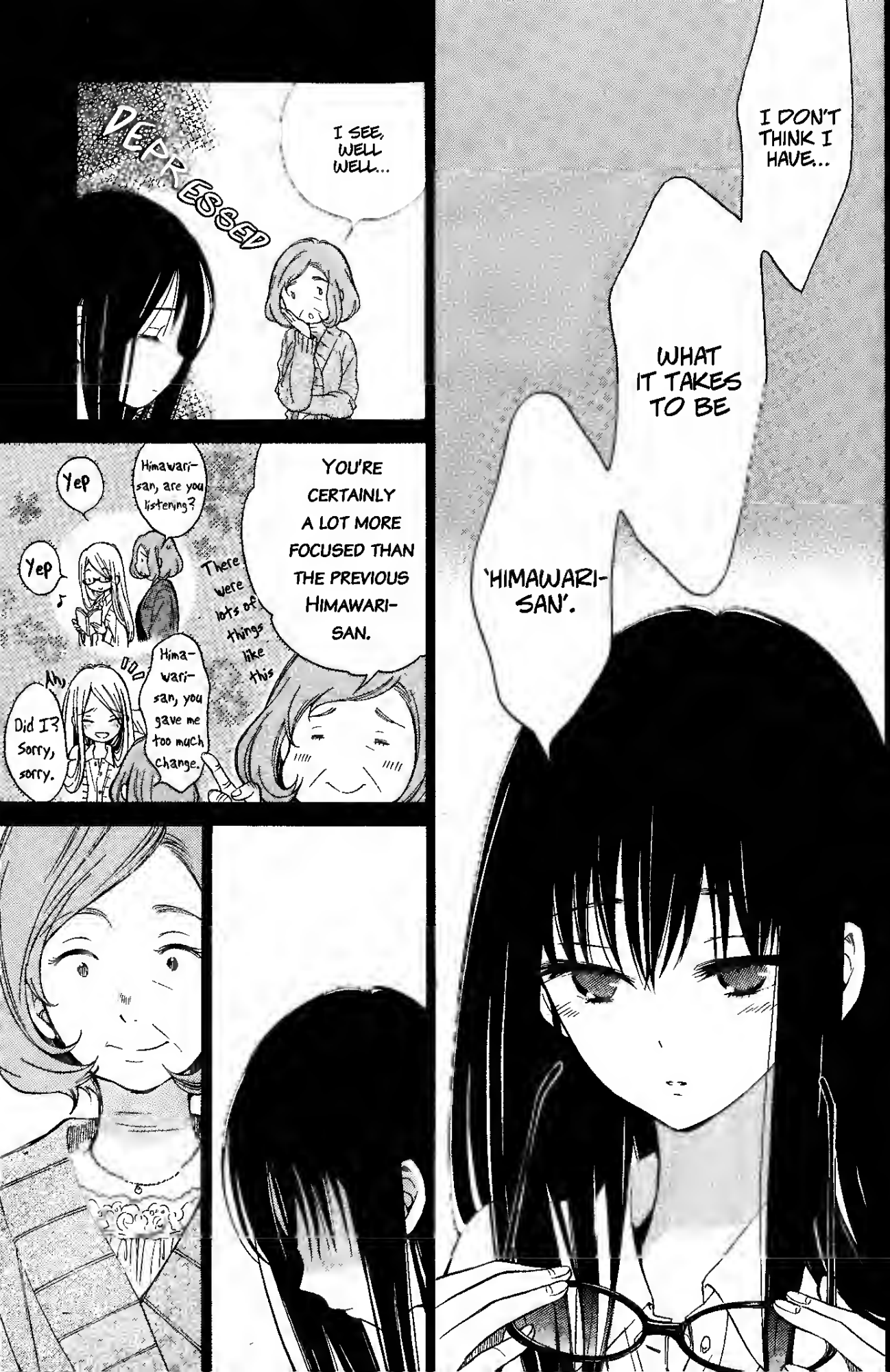
SILENCE
HEAVY
SHAKE
THAN I WAS EXPEC-TING.
THAT STORY GOT A LOT MORE SERIOUS
SHAKE
BUT THEN, ONE DAY-
RATTLE


Ah...
No, it's
fine
GLOOMY
Welcome!
Matuda-
san
YOU DON'T LOOK AS IF YOU'RE FINE AT ALL!

GOOD AFTERNOON, HIMAWARI-SAN.
SORRY, I KNOW YOU'RE JUST ABOUT TO CLOSE UP.

...
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

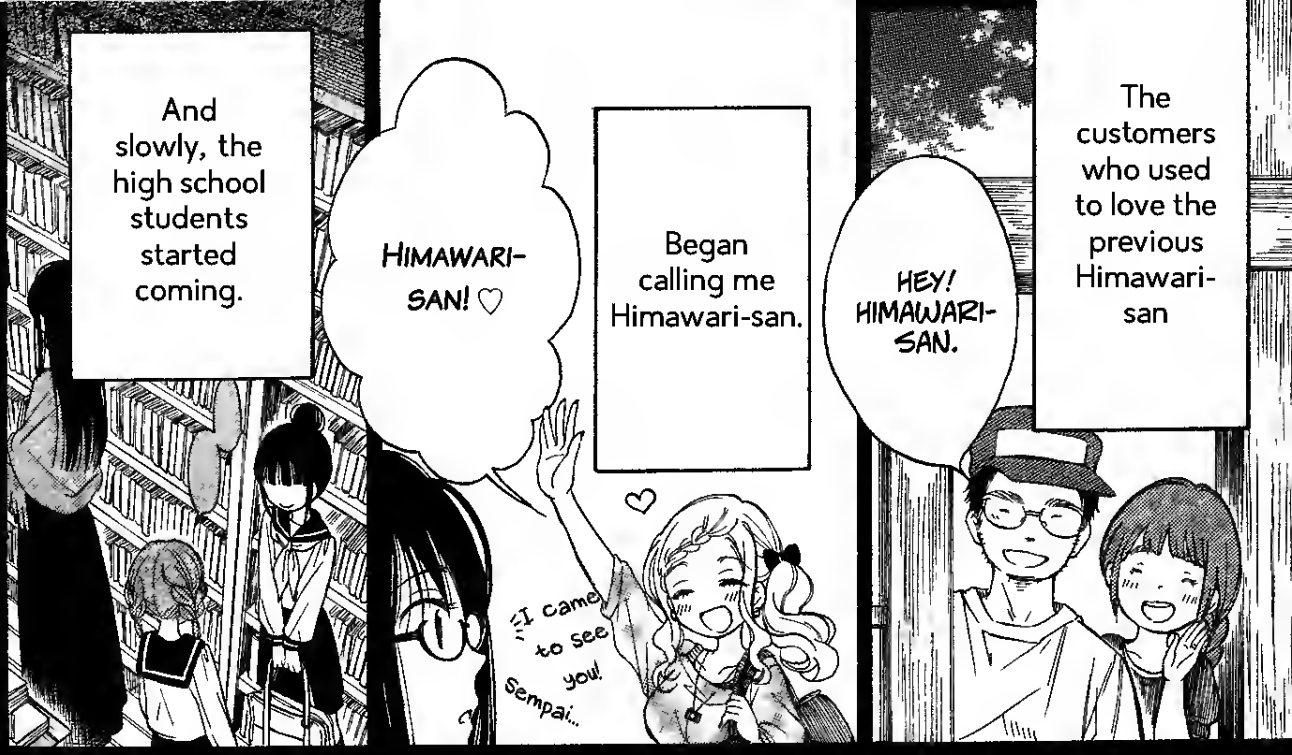
CLACK


I DON'T THINK I HAVE...
WHAT IT TAKES TO BE 'HIMAWARI-SAN'.
DEPRESSED
I SEE, WELL WELL...
YOU'RE CERTAINLY A LOT MORE FOCUSED THAN THE PREVIOUS HIMAWARI-SAN.
There were lots of things like this
Himawari-san, are you listening?
Yep
Yep
Himawari-san, you gave me too much change.
Ah,
Did I? Sorry, sorry.

FWISH
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY.
YOU ARE HIMAWARI-SAN.
AFTER ALL, YOU MANAGE THE HIMAWARI BOOKERY.

I'M BEING SO CHILDISH.
SORRY...
SO JUST KEEP ON WORKING HARD AGAIN FROM TOMORROW.
THE HARD WORK IS ALL DONE FOR NOW.
IT'S OKAY, THE DAY IS COMING TO AN END.
...RIGHT.
Clench
AND SO, DAY BY DAY,
YOU'LL CONTINUE BECOMING HIMAWARI-SAN.

Even though there was really nothing I could do to change the way I was,


And slowly, the high school students started coming.
HIMAWARI-SAN! ♡
Began calling me Himawari-san.
I came to see you! Sempai...
HEY! HIMAWARI-SAN.
The customers who used to love the previous Himawari-san

IT'S SO CUTE IS IT OKAY IF WE CALL YOU THAT TOO?
Yes...
Oh yeah,
THE STORE OWNER IS CALLED 'HIMAWARI-SAN', RIGHT? IS THAT BECAUSE OF THE SHOP'S NAME?

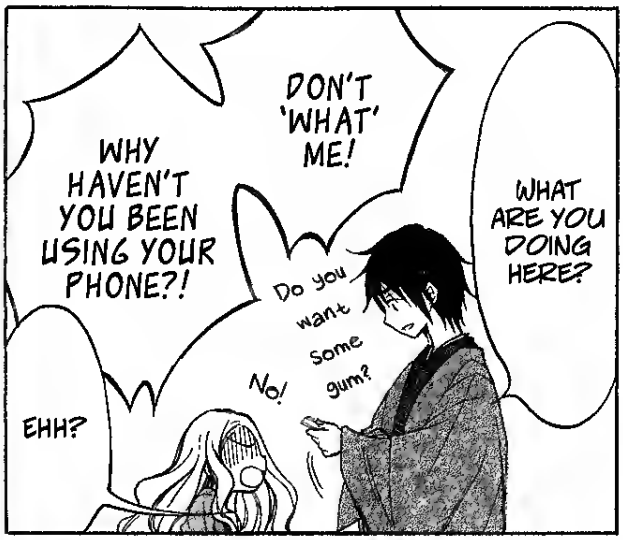
Even though it took some time, at some point I was able to properly become 'Himawari-san'.

WAAH... HIMAWARI-SAN!
NOD
NOD

And then...
RATTLE
UMM...
A-
NERVOUS
ARE YOU OPEN?
... COME ON IN.
SPARKLE
A middle school student?
HIMAWARI-SAN, PLEASE LET ME WORK HERE!
HIMAWARI-SAN!
I Love You
HIMA-WARI-SAN!
YOU'RE PERSI-STENT, AREN'T YOU?
because I'm a high-school student now!
I've already said no.

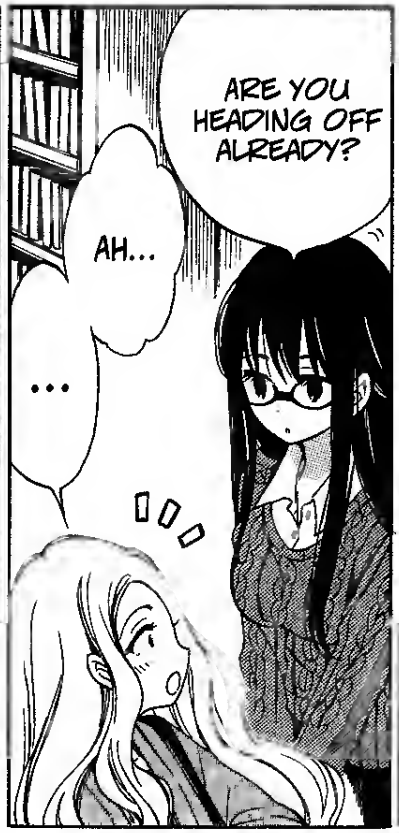
...
SORRY THE STORY GOT A BIT FUNNY TOWARDS THE END THERE,
BUT THAT'S HOW THINGS GOT TO HOW THEY ARE TODAY.
Sorry for telling you such a boring story
...
Huh?
HELLO, HIMAWARI-SAN!
RATTLE
THA...
WELCOME, MATSURI.
DID YOU COME HERE WITH MY BROTHER?
You're very loud
Sorry.
WE JUST BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER THEN.
HUH? OOMIYA-SAN?

OH YEAH,
I FINISHED OFF THAT MANUSCRIPT AND SENT IT TO YOU.


WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DON'T 'WHAT' ME!
WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN USING YOUR PHONE?!
Do you want some gum?
No!
EHH?

AT HIS OWN PACE
AH, IT'S BEEN OUT OF BATTERY.

?
whispering


ARE YOU HEADING OFF ALREADY?
AH...
...

FOR REAL? YIPEEE!
I'LL CHECK IT RIGHT AWAY AND GET IN TOUCH!
BOUNCE BOUNCE

WHISPER
WAS THE STORY YOU TOLD ME BEFORE A NON-FICTION?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT'S FICTION?
AH, WELL...
YOU'RE KUROI-ZATO-SENSEI'S SISTER, SO...
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT JUST BE REALLY GOOD AT STORY-TELLING.
HM... I WONDER...
AND ALSO,
THE BOOK-SHOP YOU DESCRIBED IN YOUR STORY SEEMS QUITE DIFFERENT TO THIS ONE.

And lonely.
Cold,
Dark,
Quiet,
THIS BOOKSHOP
HAS A REALLY WARM FEELING.
I DON'T REALLY MIND IF IT'S FICTION OR NON-FICTION,
THANKS FOR TELLING ME SUCH A LOVELY STORY.
BOW
I REALLY
LOVE HAPPY ENDINGS!

See you tomorrow!
THUD
IS IT OKAY IF I COME BACK?
OF COURSE.
CLATTER
EH, AH! SORRY.
PLEASE TAKE A SEAT IF YOU WOULD LIKE.
I'll leave this here.
...
FROZEN
FROZEN

AH!
...
TAKE YOUR TIME.
AH, NO. NOT AT ALL...
WERE WE DISTURBING YOU?
Especially the girl in the sailor-uniform
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE COME HERE, HIMAWARI-SAN.
? UM...
... !
GASP

SORRY I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO SAY ANYTHING.
THIS IS A BIT AWKWARD...
DID YOU OVERHEAR US TALKING BEFORE?
AH, NO, THAT'S OKAY.
UH~
UM...
SLUGGISH
YES.
UM... I THOUGHT I WOULD COME TODAY TO APOLOGIZE.
YOU WERE... THE HIGH SCHOOLER WHO USED TO COME BY THE SHOP?
What do you do now?
I'm a sales-man Today's a day off
YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT, SO I DIDN'T REALIZE.
you have a funny way of talking, don't you?
Once-san
I'M SORRY.

WHY ARE YOU APOLOGISING?
I'M THE ONE WHO WAS GETTING ANGRY.
?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING!
BUT... ALL THE SAME,
IT'S TRUE THAT WE TOLD PEOPLE AT THE SCHOOL ABOUT THAT INCIDENT.
THAT'S ALL WE WERE TRYING TO SAY, BUT.
DON'T BECOME A NUISANCE TO HIMAWARI-SAN.
DON'T PLAY AROUND AT THE BOOKSTORE LIKE WE DID.
THERE CERTAINLY WAS A MIXTURE OF EXAGGERATIONS AND RUMORS BACK THEN, BUT...
IT'S MY FAULT!
IT'S ALREADY NOTHING MORE THAN A DISTANT MEMORY TO ME.

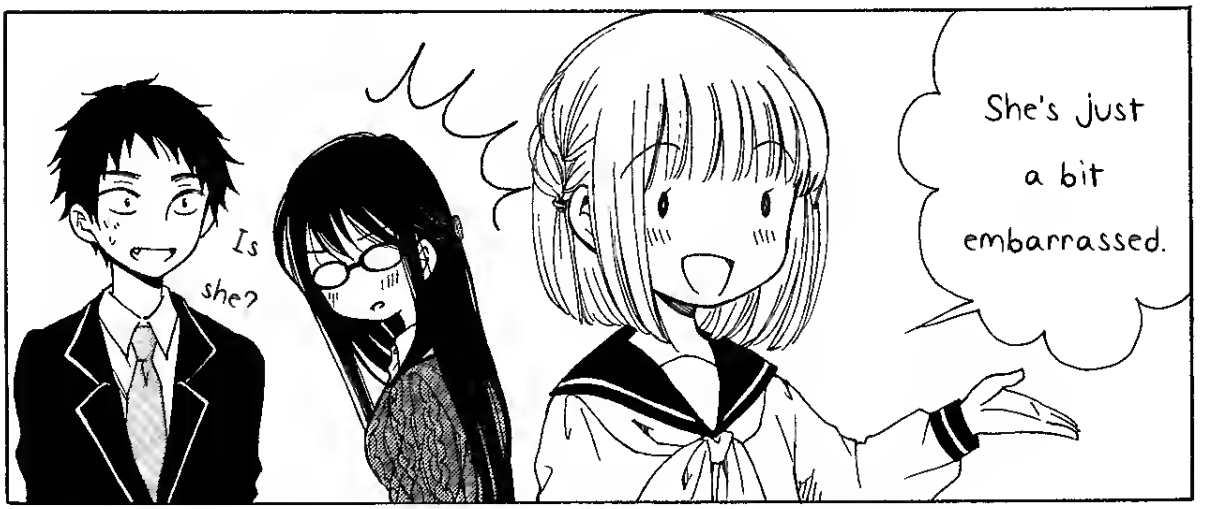
BUT...
...
THE ONEE-SAN WORKING IN THE BOOKSHOP IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL
SPOKE IN AN UNNATURAL TONE.
SHE WAS THE TYPE TO GET ANGRY
SHE WAS...
HOW-EVER...
BY THE WAY,

IT FEELS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ALMOST FOUR HOURS,
BUT HAVE YOU FOUND THE BOOK YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
Um... EH?!
Was just waiting for an opportunity to start a conversation.
RIGHT... I DON'T REALLY...
I HAVEN'T REALLY READ MUCH...
SO DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS, HIMAWARI-SAN?

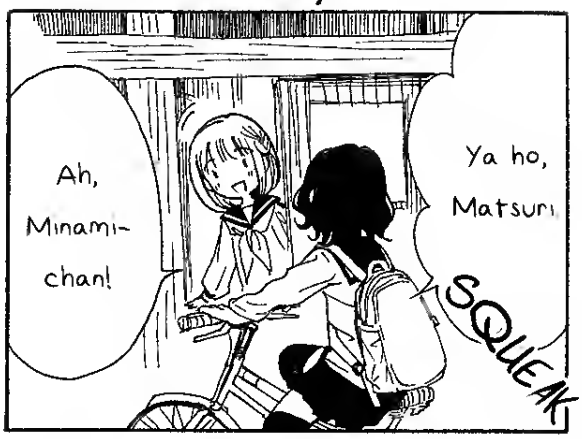
IT'S A LOT PRETTIER THAN BEFORE, HIMAWARI-SAN.
*see last page
!?
...HUH?!
EH, AH... SORRY.
Did she get mad?

On the previous page, Dead-fish-eyes-kun says
ひまわりさん
昔より綺麗に
なりましたね
The reason Himawari-san gasps at this is because of a different interpretation/mishearing.
1. He says 'Himawari-san' because he is addressing her, and is saying that the shop has become a lot cleaner. "Himawari-san, it's a lot tidier around here than it was before, isn't it?"
2. He says 'Himawari-san' has become more beautiful. "You've become prettier than before, Himawari-san."

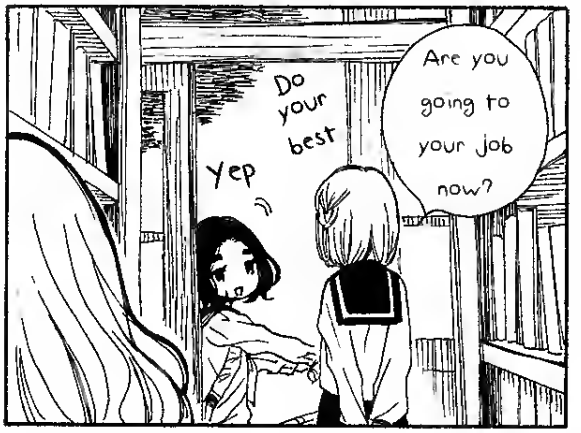
It's a bit hard to explain the intricacies of this, not only because of the grammar, but because 綺麗 doesn't really have a perfect English equivalent.
The first sentence is possibly a slightly more natural way to read it in text form; it's missing a comma, but it does have a line break so kind of comes across that way. On the other hand, the second would be missing a particle but it would be easy to interpret it as a personal compliment, particularly if someone is talking nervously and the breaks between works are a bit jumbled.

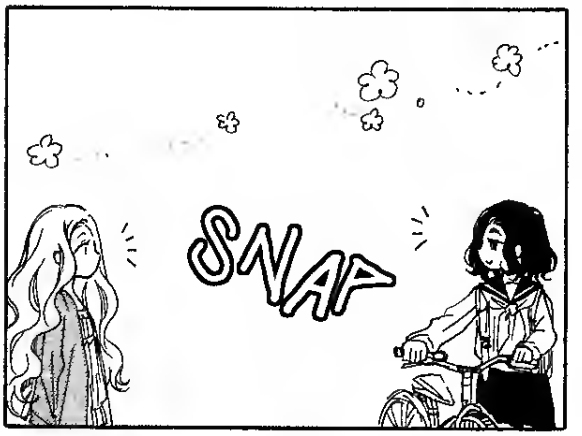


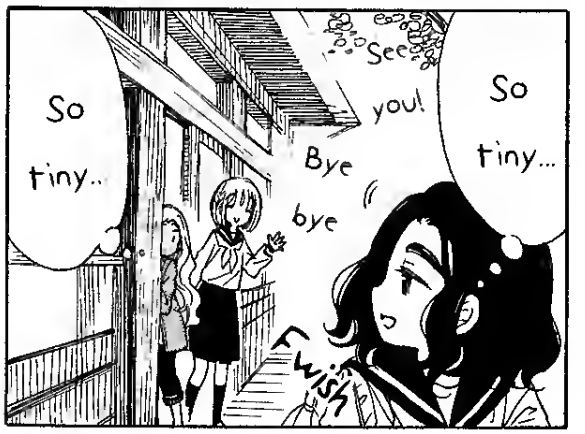
Matsuri-san's commentary.



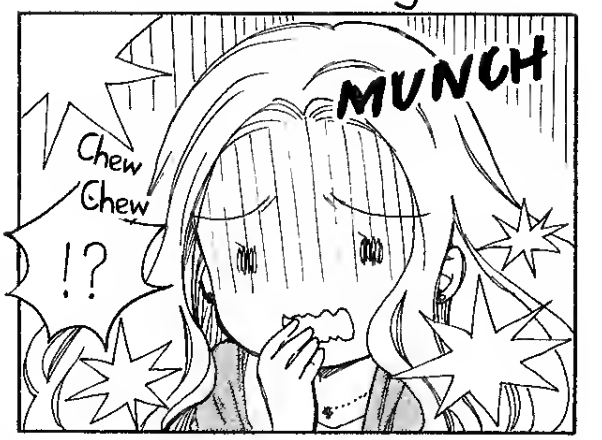
Tiny

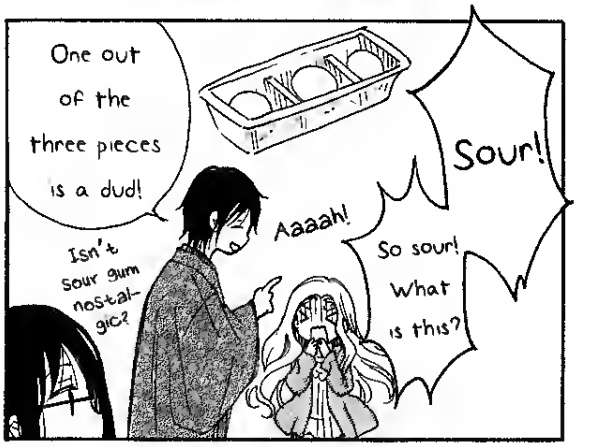


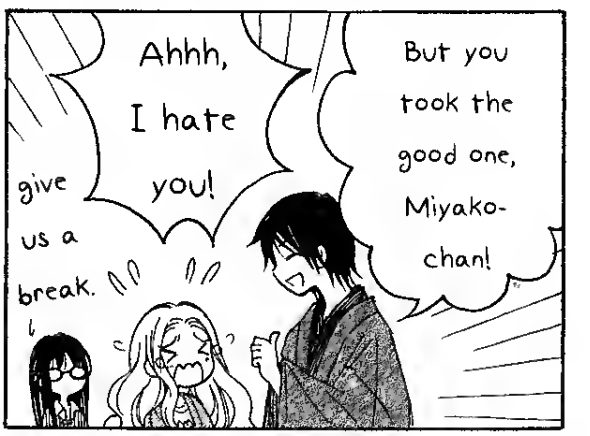




She ate the gum







Himawari-san chapter 36 - from Volume 5 by Sugano Manami

Volume 8 is now on sale
(Paper + Kindle + E-Book)

Kawaii Scans - kawaii.ca

Proofreading: Leanto, Ishi Tsuki
Quality Checking: Machspeed, Drpepperfan
Scan/TL/Edit: Chinomeri

Help Wanted!
Kawaii-Scans
Contacting us is easy!
Email sashiko@sashiko.me
Web http://kawaii.ca
Twitter @kawaiiscans
Facebook kawaiiscans
Patreon kawaiiscans
Discord discord.gg/3zBbJHF
Kawaii-Scans needs your help!
Translators Looking at possible new series(if you have something you'd like to work on in mind already let's talk about it) or potentially help with some of our older ones.
Editors We need people who have a background in image editing. We need both cleaners and typesetter. Or if you like to do both that's fine too! If you have Photoshop we can train you!
We need people who have a good eye. You'll be asked to look for graphical mistakes as well as grammatical ones and list them for the editor to fix before release.